

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
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UNCLAS PARIS 11704

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, FR
SUBJECT: THE ETUC DAY OF ACTION IN FRANCE

1. IN FRANCE, THE APRIL 5 "DAY OF ACTION" ON UNEMPLOYMENT CALLED BY THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) WAS MARKED BY STATEMENTS RATHER THAN DEMONSTRATIONS, AND PASSED RELATIVELY UNNOTICED.

2. FO GENERAL SECRETARY (AND ETUC VICE PRESIDENT) BERGERON WAS IN LUXEMBOURG, HEADING AN ETUC DELEGATION WHICH CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE TO REQUEST THE CONVENING OF A WESTERN EUROPEAN TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE ON EMPLOYMENT. THE HEAD OF THE OTHER ETUC AFFILIATE, CFDT GENERAL SECRETARY MAIRE, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN PARIS, WHICH INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ITALIAN CGIL (MARIO DIDO); THE GERMAN DGB (GERHARD SCHMIDT); AND THE SPANISH UGT (MANUEL SIMON). IN HIS REMARKS, MAIRE STRESSED THAT ALL THE ETUC AFFILIATES HAD DEMANDS THAT WERE QUITE SIMILAR; AND THAT THE EUROPEANS MUST

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BE CAREFUL TO REJECT THE CONCEPT THAT THE PRESENT ECONOMIC MALAISE IS INEVITABLE; AN IDEA WHICH TENDS TO SET COUNTRY AGAINST COUNTRY IN A SCRAMBLE FOR EXPORTS.

3. ON THE SIDELINES, THE CGT (DESPITE AN EARLIER STATEMENT THAT IT WAS GOING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE

DAY OF ACTION -- SEE PARIS 10342) LIMITED ITSELF TO CALLING A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH INTER ALIA IT POINTEDLY NOTED THAT NOTHING SIGNIFICANT WAS POSSIBLE IN FRANCE WITHOUT ITS PARTICIPATION, AS EVIDENCED BY THE EVENTS OF THE DAY. TEACHERS FEDERATION (FEN) GENERAL SECRETARY HENRY REGRETTE THAT BOTH FO AND THE CFDT HAD REFUSED TO JOIN WITH HIS ORGANIZATION IN SOME JOINT ACTION, AND INDEPENDENTLY CALLED FOR A TRIPARTITE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON EMPLOYMENT.

4. COMMENT: FOR THE FRENCH UNIONS, THE DAY, INDEED THE WHOLE WEEK, HAS BEEN OVERSHADOWED BY INTERNAL CONSIDERATIONS AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE INTENSIFYING WAR OF WORDS BETWEEN THE CGT AND THE CFDT, AND FO'S OVERTURES TO THE CFDT, WHICH WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF A SEPARATE MESSAGE.

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Message Attributes

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